

Library

Beirham Urban District Council



A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

-oOo-

1953.

Seixem Union District Council



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R E P O R T

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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

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URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIGHAM

Chairman of the Council

Councillor S.G.Mutter, J.P.

Public Health Committee

Councillor W. R. Foot (Chairman)

Councillors S. G. Mutter, A. E. Buley, W. J. B. Hazlewood, F. P. Lee,
G. H. Blackmore, Mrs. A. M. Park

Housing Committee

Councillor C. M. Ashford (Chairman)

Councillors S. G. Mutter, F. W. H. Park, W. W. Stokes, F. P. Lee,
H. G. Perkins, Mrs. A. M. Park

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council

T. Owen Davies.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child
Welfare Centre, and Port Medical Officer.

"+ Andrew Dick, M.D., Ch.B., D.F.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer

@+ J. I. Snodgrass, M.B., Ch. B.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods, Port Health Inspector,
Housing Officer, and Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosive Acts.

"+ Francis Lawrence Godfrey, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.

Clerk and Typist for Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector

@ Mrs. S. Michelmore

@ Part Time

" Whole time

+ Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

R E P O R T
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM
FOR 1953

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

Dr. Dick, who has been your Medical Officer since the outbreak of the last war, retired due to ill-health in November of this year. A Medical Officer's work cannot be measured in terms of pounds, shillings and pence, nor is it revealed in any concrete fashion by reference to some new or improved amenity to the town. Dr. Dick's achievements lie in the improved general health of the community, the increased expectation of life, and the absence of serious infectious disease during his 14 years in office. His work is even more creditable when one reflects on the immense difficulties of this time, marked as it was by the upheaval of the second great war and the great post-war changes in our health and social services.

This year again there were only a total of 27 cases of notifiable infectious diseases, which is the same number as last year, and compares with 174 cases in 1951.

The number of births has fallen from 123 to 113 giving a birth rate of 12.83 per 1,000 population, with a corrected rate of 13.98 per 1,000 population. There were 133 deaths which gives a death rate of 15.10 per 1,000 population, corrected 11.47, as compared with rates of 14.17 and 10.76 respectively last year. The causes of death are those which are usual for this area - Cancer, Heart Disease, and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, and they account for 70 out of the total number of deaths. A detailed list of causes of death is given on page 6.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

J. I. SNODGRASS

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

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VITAL STATISTICS, 1953.

	Male	Female	Total
LIVE BIRTHS			
Legitimate	57	56	113
Illegitimate	55	52	107
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	2	4	6
Comparability Factor			12.83
Standardised Birth Rate			1.09
			13.98
STILL BIRTHS			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	0	0	0
DEATHS			
Comparability Factor	65	68	133
True Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			0.76
Death Rate standardised according to age and sex of resident population			15.10
			11.47
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	2	2	4
Death Rate per 1,000 live births			35.39
Deaths of Infants under four weeks:			
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	1	2	3

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

RAINFALL - 1953

January	...	0.77 inches	July	1....	3.90 inches
February	...	1.71	August	...	2.71
March	...	0.83	September	...	3.28
April	...	3.28	October	...	2.29
May	...	5.17	November	...	2.92
June	...	2.64	December	...	0.66

Total - 30.16 inches

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Pneumonia	...	...	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis			-
Measles	...	...	9
Scarlet Fever	...	...	9
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	7
Dysentery	...	...	-
Food Poisoning	...	...	1

27

Cases removed to Torquay Isolation Hospital ... 5

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1953 (as supplied by the Registrar General)

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningo-coccal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	5	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	9	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	12	27
Coronary disease, angina	8	7	15
Hyper-tension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	9	5	14
Other circulatory disease	5	3	8
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	5	1	6
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	12	16
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	3	0	3
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	65	68	133

Age per- iods	TUBERCULOSIS 1953							
	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5								
15								
25	1	4						
35	1							
45	3	1						
55	1							
65 and up- wards								
	6	5						

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my twenty-eighth Annual Report, as required by the Minister of Health.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY

Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Foods.

HOUSING, 1953

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total (including the number given separate under (b)):

I	By Local Authority:	
	Two bedroomed houses	1
	Three-bedroomed houses	46
	Four-bedroomed houses	6
II	By other Authorities	8
III	By other bodies or persons	36

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

I	By the Local Authority	61
(a)	For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act 1925	0
(b)	For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act 1925	0
(c)	For other bodies	0

HOUSING STATISTICS 1953

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	95
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	127

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	34
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	41
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	54
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices: Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	54
3.		Action under Statutory powers during the year:	
	(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a)	By owners	11
	(B)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	19
	(a)	By owners	19
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	19
	(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
	(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:	
	(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
	(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	0

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV (overcrowding)	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	11
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during year	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year .	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	11
(d) Particulars of cases in which the dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	0

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SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT AND WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - 1953

Number of dwelling-houses completed during the year 1953:	
Detached houses	7
Semi-detached houses	39
Terrace houses	14
Bungalows	24
Semi-detached bungalows	8
Seni-bungalows	4
Flats	1
Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1953 ..	97
Public buildings, workshops, etc.	0
Number of houses built during the year for working classes:	
For Local Authority	61
By Private effort	36
Number of new houses or flats required for working classes	180
Houses Inspected	95
Cases of Overcrowding abated	1
Defective houses repaired	42
Defective floors repaired	5
Defective roofs repaired or renewed	17
Defective yards paved	2
Defective external plastering renewed	14
Defective internal plastering repaired	27
Defective windows repaired	11
Defective stoves repaired	4
Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926	
During year	0
Total to date	23

DRAINS AND DRAINAGE

Sewer Extensions during year - Penn Valley and Lindthorpe Estate	
Drains examined	153
Defective drains repaired or renewed	36
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of new buildings	97
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of existing buildings	42
Existing W.C.'s fitted with flushing cisterns, or cisterns renewed	12
Defective traps renewed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps	17
Defective W.C.'s repaired	13
Automatic cisterns fixed	3
The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year:	
New baths	137
W.C.'s	115
Lavatory basins	149
Urinals	3
Scullery sinks	124
Septic tanks	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

Rooms fumigated	30
Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected	23
Articles of clothing and bedding destroyed	50
Rooms disinfected for notifiable infectious diseases	8
Rooms disinfected for tuberculosis	0
Rooms disinfected for verminous condition	20
Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	5

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924

Number of butchers shops in the district	8
Other food shops and stores	89
Number of visits to butchers shops	183
Number of visits to other food shops and stores	312

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS

Slaughtering in District (except for Casuals) ceased in January 1940 (M.O.F. Order. All meat is received from Paignton Depot.

Weight of Unfit food Destroyed

	Tuberculosis lbs	Other diseases and conditions lbs	Total lbs
Beef	—	250	250
Mutton	—	—	—
Pork	—	16	16
Offals	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	266	266

The following foods have been surrendered as unsound:

56 tins meat; 12 tins fish; 50 tins vegetables; 116 tins fruit; 15 tins imported ham (154 lbs); 20 tins milk; 2 tins soup; 1 stone haddock; 12 jars caviar; 10 boxes cheese; 1 tin frozen eggs (28 lb); 1 box herrings.

FOOD POISONING, 1953

1. Local Authority - Brighan Urban District. Year 1953.
- 2 Food poisoning notifications (corrected) Returns to R.G.
 1st Quarter - nil; 2nd Quarter - nil;
 3rd quarter - one; 4th Quarter - nil;
3. Outbreaks due to identified agents. Total outbreaks - nil;
 Total cases - nil.
 Outbreaks due to (a) Chemical poisons - nil; (b) Salmonella organisms - nil; (c) Staphylococci including toxin - nil; (d) Cl botulinum - nil; (e) other bacteria - nil.
4. Outbreaks of undiscovered causes - total outbreaks - nil;
 total cases - nil.
5. Single cases - agent identified - nil; unknown causes - one;
 total - one.

Appendix (d) (2)
not applicable

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of cow-keepers and dairymen registered at end of year	38
Producer and wholesalers	13
Producer retailers	12
Retailers	13
Number removed from Register	2
Number of cowsheds in District	26
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds, farms etc.	57

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of slaughterhouses in District	
Registered) not in	3
Licensed) use	0
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	0
Number of visits to premises where emergency or occasional slaughtering is carried out	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number of noxious or offensive trades in District	0
---	---

NUISANCES

Complaints of nuisances received	70
Informal notices served	29
Statutory notices served	0
Nuisances abated without written notice	17

SCHOOLS

Number of schools in District:	
Public	5
Private	3
Number of schools found defective	0
Number of notices to Managers	0
Number of visits to schools	11

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses in District	7
Number of Inspections	31
Number found defective	1
Number of notices to remedy	1

THE ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS, 1952

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream or Treatment Plants in the District and all Ice Cream sold is prepacked.

SPELL FISH

Samples of crabmeat from two firms packing this article have been found satisfactory and there has been no cause for complaint in connection with the processing of this.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

There are 97 shops in the district engaged in the sale of Foodstuffs. All traders engaged in the manufacture and sale of foodstuffs have been supplied with copies of the Byelaws and other advisory leaflets and from time to time the advice of this Department is sought when additions or improvements are contemplated to their premises or the installation of new equipment and considerable progress has been made during the year under review.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

One isolated case was reported during the year

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector:

Number of factories and workshops registered in District 42

Promises (1)		Inspections (2)	Number of written notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power	19	28	1	
FACTORIES without mechanical power	22	35	2	
+ OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	1	1		
+ Electrical stations should be reckoned as factories	42	64	3	

2. Defects found:

Particulars 1	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted 5
	Found	None Found	Referred to H.M. Inspector 4	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	1	1		
Overcrowding (S2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	3	3		
Ineffective ventilation of floors (S6)	1	1		
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
Insufficient	1	1		
Unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Not separate for sexes	1	1		
Other offences				
	7	7		

(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops) (Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|---|
| (1) | (a) | Number of Council Houses found to be infested | 1 |
| | | Number of Council houses disinfected | 1 |
| | (b) | Number of other houses found to be infested | 2 |
| | | Number of other houses disinfected | 2 |
- (2) Spraying with approved insectide after removing wallpaper, skirting etc
- (3) No action is taken before the removal of the tenants belongings, except inspection by the Sanitary Inspector.
- (4) Work of disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department
- (5) Tenants are advised by the Sanitary Inspector as to measures to prevent re-infestation after cleaning.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACT.
Particulars of Registration

Number of Licences granted to store Petroleum Spirit	25
Number of Licences granted to store Carbide of Calcium	0
Number of Licences granted to store Mixed Explosives	19
Number of Licences granted to store Gunpowder and Mixed Explosives in Magazines	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919
Infestation Order, 1944

The agreement with the Dartmouth Corporation for their Operator to carry out Rodent Control in Beith on alternate weeks, is proving satisfactory, and further progress has been made in the control by block treatment of properties. The sewer treatment has been carried out. Test baiting and maintenance has been continued. The public are making good use of the service in private dwellings and owners of business premises are co-operating in treatment measures.

As a result of operations during the year 425 dead rats were found (including 3 ship rats), and it is estimated that 520 others were destroyed. 73 dead mice were found, and 342 estimated destroyed.

PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.
DETAILS OF SHIPPING.

Entering the Port Health District of Brixham and Record of Inspection for the year 1953, ending 31st December:

1. Amount of shipping entering the port during the year (Table A)

	Number	Nett tonnage	Numbers Inspected		Numbers reported to be defective	Number of orders issued
			By Port M.O.H.	By Port San. In		
FOREIGN (Steamers) (Motors) (Sailing)	57	16,812	1	25		
TOTAL FOREIGN	57	16,812	1	25		
COASTWISE (Steamers) (Motors) (Sailing)	3016	323,929	6	39		
TOTAL COASTWISE	3016	323,929	6	39		
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	3073	340,741	7	64		
BRIXHAM Motor	69	84	frequent inspections made			

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT
(Table B)

- (a) Passenger Traffic - No passengers have landed or embarked during the year
- (b) Cargo Traffic - Principal Imports - Oil. Principal Exports - Oil.
- (c) Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive - Various foreign ports with and for oil bunkers.

III. WATER SUPPLY

- (1) Source of supply - Water is supplied from the town reservoirs both to the port and shipping.
- (2) Hydrants and hose-pipes are kept in lockers when not in use.

IV PORT HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

- (1) Declarations of Health are handed to the masters of ships on arrival of the staff of H.M. Customs.
- (2) The boats of the local shipping company are available for boarding vessels on arrival.
- (3) Notification of any vessel requiring special attention is received by H.M. Customs or the local shipping company, and is telephoned to the Public Health Office.
- (4) A mooring station for infested vessels is provided at the entrance to the Outer Harbour.
- (5) The Port Medical Officer is prepared to grant the usual standing exemptions to
 - (a) All other unhealthy vessels other than those included in Articles 12 and 14(1)
 - (b) Vessels otherwise healthy which have arrived from listed ports in infested areas
- (6) In cases in which persons have to be notified as proceeding to this area from a vessel on which infectious disease has occurred, it is the practice for the Medical Officer to examine the person on arrival and at intervals, as required by the regulations.
- (7)
 - (a) A waiting room is provided on the Pier, where persons could be examined
 - (b) The necessary materials for fumigation of cabins, bunks etc., are provided by the Public Health Department
 - (c) Temporary accommodation for the purpose of the regulations would be provided at one of the Hospitals in the District
 - (d) Hospital accommodation for Plague, Cholera, etc. is provided by the Devon County Council at Exeter.
 - (e) Ambulance transport for infectious cases (d) is provided by the Devon County Council
 - (f) The Local Port Medical Officer would be responsible for the supervision of contacts.
- (8) Pathological and bacteriological examinations would be carried out by the County Medical Department.
- (9) Ditto
- (10) Treatment of venereal disease is available at Torquay Hospital Clinic.
- (11) Arrangements for the interment of the dead is made by the local agents for the shipping company concerned, in conjunction with the Port Health Officer.
- (12) Nil

Table C - No cases of infectious sickness have been landed during the year

Table D - No reports made.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

- (1) (a) Ships in the Port are inspected for the presence of Rats
 (b) The quays, wharves and stores are also inspected at regular intervals
- (2) Rat guards are fitted to ships.
- (3) (a) Arrangements would be made with Plymouth, if required.
 (b) Baits are laid in stores etc.
- (4) Reports received from masters, occupiers etc.
- (5) Stores built of stone and sheet iron.

Table E - No information available.

Table F - Approximately 50 brown rats and 7 black rats

Table G - Nil

Table H - Not an approved Port

Table J - No defects notified.

VII FOOD INSPECTED.

- (1) No food imports
- (2) No shell-fish bed or laying in the Port Health District
- (3) No samples taken

I wish to express my very best thanks to the Officers of H.M. Customs, and the Harbour Master for their co-operation and assistance.

F. L. GODFREY

Port Health Inspector.

